



**MOAA**®  
Military Officers Association of America

**MOAA Pittsburgh - A Five Star Chapter**  
**Chartered on Veterans Day, 11 November 1965**  
**Our Mission: Never Stop Serving**

## May 2024 Newsletter

### Chapter Leaders

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Oralia Ferretti  
Surviving Spouse Liaison  
412-364-7034  
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### Chapter Dues are due...

As a reminder, Chapter dues were due no later than our first meeting which was held on 14 April 2024. Chapter dues are currently \$12 and may be paid on-line at MOAA National's direct link by clicking **Chapter Dues**.

If unable to pay on-line, please bring cash or a check to the June Luncheon and give to Treasurer, Marcel Minutolo, or Events Coordinator, Pat Seda-Rivera, upon arrival. Checks should be made payable to MOAA Pittsburgh Chapter.

**IMPORTANT:** Please note that in order to vote at the 2 June 2024 meeting (Chapter Meeting called and voting items outlined in the 11 May 2024 e-mail), your 2024 Chapter dues must be paid in full prior to the start of the meeting.

### ROTC/JROTC Awards

One of our major duties in the region is support for the future of our services officers. Our Chapter distributes awards to four universities/colleges and fourteen JROTC programs. Many thanks to Lt Col Chuck Chasler

**Pat Seda-Rivera**  
Events Coordinator  
[julio.moaa@comcast.net](mailto:julio.moaa@comcast.net)

**Joan Bellisario**  
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### **Directors**

**Col Carmen DiGiacomo**  
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**CAPT Chad Rittle**  
[rittle99@yahoo.com](mailto:rittle99@yahoo.com)

**CW4 Thomas Tallon**  
[thomastallon@verizon.net](mailto:thomastallon@verizon.net)

### **MOAA State Veterans Home Advisory Council Members**

#### **Southwestern Veteran's Center**

**CW4 Thomas E. Tallon**  
[thomastallon@verizon.net](mailto:thomastallon@verizon.net)

#### **Erie Soldiers & Sailors Home**

**MAJ Richard J. DiGiacomo**  
[rjdigiacomozoominternet.net](mailto:rjdigiacomozoominternet.net)

for handling this duty, coordinating presentations, and attending many events himself at various high schools and higher education institutions every spring. Chuck has been doing a great job for our Chapter for many years. Assisting Chuck in the pictures below are members CPT Dan Kysela at North Allegheny Junior AFROTC, MAJ Richard DiGiacomo at Slippery Rock University AROTC and CW2 Joseph Cordier at Connellsville High School's Military Ball.





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## Bingo at the Southwestern Veteran's Center, Pittsburgh

Our MOAA Pittsburgh Chapter will be hosting a bingo event at the Southwestern Veteran's Center, 7060 Highland Dr, Pittsburgh, 15206 on Saturday, 29 June 2024, from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM.

Please contact Pat Seda-Rivera (julio.moaa@comcast.net) for more information and/or if you would like to volunteer. Everyone has a really good time, and the residents love the comradery and winning prizes!

*Honor to the soldier and sailor everywhere,  
who bravely bears his country's cause.  
Honor, also, to the citizen who cares for  
his brother in the field and serves, as he  
best can, the same cause."*

**ABRAHAM LINCOLN**  
American statesman and lawyer  
served as the 16th president of the United States

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## Surviving Spouse Liaison

We welcome Oralia Ferretti as the "Surviving Spouse Liaison," succeeding Carolyn Brahney, who has done an excellent job representing the Chapter in that capacity for the past nine (9) years. Thank you, Oralia, for taking on this important volunteer role in our Chapter and thank you, Carolyn, for your many years of service!

**[Click to view MOAA's Surviving Spouse Resources Website](#)**

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## MOAA State Veterans Home Advisory Council Members

Each State Veterans Home is overseen by an Advisory Council consisting of 15 members and The Adjutant General. Twelve members are appointed by the Governor from a list of nominations submitted to The Adjutant General by the Pennsylvania War Veterans' Council. Each home's advisory council advises The Adjutant General as to the management, operation and the adequacy of facilities and services at their respective homes.

Our MOAA Pittsburgh Chapter is honored to have two of its members serving on the MOAA State Veterans Home Advisory Council. CW04 USA (Ret) Thomas E. Tallon serves as the President of the Southwestern Veteran's Center, Pittsburgh, and MAJ USA (Ret) Richard J. DiGiacomo serves as the Secretary of the Pennsylvania Soldiers and Sailors Home, Erie.

We thank you for your time and talents serving and in representing our Chapter.

**[Click to view the State Veterans Home Advisory Council Website](#)**

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## Open Positions - Secretary and Membership Chair

The Chapter is still in need of volunteers to fill the positions of Secretary and Membership Chair. The Secretary position is currently being handled by Dan Kysela (Vice-President) and the Membership Chair position continues to be handled by Jon Comis (President).

Please reach out to Dan or Jon if you have any questions about the positions and/or if you wish to step up and volunteer for one of these roles. Your assistance would be much appreciated!

Note: You must be a member of MOAA National and your Pittsburgh Chapter dues must be paid in full in order to hold a position.

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## Open Positions - Directors

The Chapter is still in need of volunteers to fill three (3) open Director positions.

As copied from Section 6 of the by-laws, the Directors shall:

- a) attend board meetings and serve as a voting member of the board of directors;
- b) provide input to the president on issues of chapter management, finances, programs, and special matters;
- c) establish and review chapter bylaws, policies, procedures, and other guiding documents annually and make recommendations for revision as needed;
- d) serve as a greeter at chapter functions; and
- e) perform other duties the president might assign.

We hope that you will consider volunteering to hold one of the open Director positions.

Note: You must be a member of MOAA National and your Pittsburgh Chapter dues must be paid in full in order to hold a position.

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## MOAA Pittsburgh's Facebook Page

MOAA Pittsburgh has a Facebook Page! To access the page, **[CLICK HERE](#)**. This is a great link to share with prospective Chapter members and to keep up-to-date on news in between meetings and newsletters.

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## June 2024 Luncheon

The next Luncheon for the MOAA Pittsburgh Chapter will be held on Sunday, 2 June 2024, at Chartiers Country Club, 601 Baldwin Road, Pittsburgh, 15205. Please see the menu selection and reservation form below and plan to join us! Happy Hour begins at 1 PM (1300 hours) with a cash bar and lunch will start to be served promptly at 2 PM (1400 hours). Valet parking is available.

**Please note the price has increased to \$35 per person.**

**Reservations are due to Pat Seda-Rivera no later than Thursday, 30 May 2024.**

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## June Luncheon Guest Speaker

The guest speaker at the June Luncheon will be Mr. Dave Defide, Senior Manager, Customer Programs, at Duquesne Light Company. Dave is responsible for Duquesne Light's Energy Efficiency (ACT 129) and Income Eligible programs. These programs help customers conserve energy while lowering their electricity costs. Dave graduated from Robert Morris University with an MBA and has been in the energy efficiency and conservation field for over 24 years.

Dave will present information on Duquesne Light's energy efficiency programs as

well as rebates currently available to its customers and preview the Company's on-line tools to help customers manage their usage.

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## Menu for the 2 June 2024 Luncheon

**Garden Salad  
with Balsamic Dressing**

**Beef Tips with Mushrooms and Tomatoes  
over Parsley Buttered Noodles**

or

**Roasted Cod English Style with Lemon Dill Sauce  
and Parsley Buttered Egg Noodles**

or

**Vegetarian Option**

**Steamed Fresh Asparagus**

**Dessert  
Strawberry Sundae**

**Dinner Rolls with Butter**

**Water - Iced Tea - Coffee**

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## Reservation Form - MOAA Luncheon on 2 June 2024

Chartiers Country Club, 601 Baldwin Rd, Pittsburgh 15205

Cash bar opens at 1 PM. **Lunch is served promptly at 2 PM** followed by the program. Adjournment by 4 PM when the club closes.

NAME OF  
MEMBER: \_\_\_\_\_ RANK: \_\_\_\_\_

Choice of: Beef \_\_\_\_\_ or Cod \_\_\_\_\_ or Vegetarian \_\_\_\_\_

SPOUSE/GUEST: \_\_\_\_\_

Choice of: Beef \_\_\_\_\_ or Cod \_\_\_\_\_ or Vegetarian \_\_\_\_\_

PRICE: \$ 35 per person

ENCLOSED: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ FOR \_\_\_\_\_ MEALS

**RSVP to Pat (412-704-2370 or [julio.moaa@comcast.net](mailto:julio.moaa@comcast.net)) by Thursday, 30 May 2024, with entree selection for each attendee.**

If mailing, mail early enough so that it gets to Pat before 30 May 2024.

Make checks payable to **MOAA Pittsburgh Chapter** and return to:

Pat Seda-Rivera  
602 Cloverleaf Drive  
Pittsburgh, PA 15239-2370

**IMPORTANT:** It would be greatly appreciated if you would please consider paying for your luncheon(s) on-line at **[Donation for MOAA Pittsburgh Chapter](#)**. You would select the "Donate Only" option from the drop-down menu along with "Pennsylvania" and "MOAA Pittsburgh Chapter." Once you've gone through the prompts and received confirmation, just let our Treasurer Marcel or Pat know that you paid on-line when you RSVP with your entree selection.

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## Veterans Breakfast Club

The **[Veterans Breakfast Club](#)** works to build a nation that understands and values the experiences of our military veterans. If you'd like to attend one of the monthly breakfasts, join us on a day trip, or volunteer, please contact:

Betty Karleski, Administrator  
200 Magnolia Place, Pittsburgh, PA 15228  
Phone: 412-623-9029  
Email: [betty@veteransbreakfastclub.org](mailto:betty@veteransbreakfastclub.org)

Membership is available for \$36 a year, but you do not have to be a member to attend the breakfasts. Check out the website for a complete list of the events. All in-person events begin at 8:30 AM unless otherwise noted and include breakfast for \$15pp.

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## Where Will Your Cost-of-Living Adjustment Land in 2025?

After a slow start to the fiscal year, the index which will set the cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for military retirees, Social Security recipients, and others has risen sharply in recent months, and now outpaces last year's inflation track.

Should this trend continue, retirees could expect a higher adjustment than the 3.2% received in 2024. However, one recent estimate puts the 2025 figure at 2.6%, well short of the last three adjustments – 3.2%, 8.7%, and 5.9% – but not far from the average adjustment over the last 10 years (2.75%).

[Read More...](#)

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## Major MOAA-Backed Improvements for Troops, Families Part of Initial NDAA Bill

A series of reforms and new programs designed to improve the lives of servicemembers and their families moved from a panel report to the text of legislation in just a few short days, thanks in part to a bipartisan effort relying on input from military advocacy groups including MOAA.

The base text of the House version of the FY 2025 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) will include recommendations from the House Armed Services Committee's Quality of Life Panel, a bipartisan group whose plans to address a series of challenges faced by the all-volunteer force include several MOAA priorities.

Among the improvements: Pay raises for junior enlisted and programs targeting persistent issues with child care, health care, and spouse employment.

[Read More...](#)

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## President's Corner

Welcome to the MOAA Pittsburgh Chapter PA-10.

First off, I want to thank Robert "Bob" Heister for serving six (6) years as Chapter President. In that time period, the Chapter earned many awards due to Bob's dedication and "nose to the grindstone" work ethic. During his tenure, the Chapter earned numerous Legion of Merit and Communication Awards. Even Bob himself was awarded a Pennsylvania State Achievement Medal issued by our governor for his meritorious support to veterans not only as our Chapter's President, but as the Pennsylvania Council of Chapter's President, the governing body of all PA Chapters.

Good Luck, Bob, with all your future endeavors!

About our Chapter-

MOAA Pittsburgh Chapter PA-10 membership is open to all Commissioned Officers or Warrant Officers that are either active, retired or who have served in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Space Force, Coast Guard, their Reserve units or the National Guard. Additionally, Public Health Service and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Officers are also welcome. Auxiliary memberships are available to widows and widowers of any deceased



individual who, if living, would be eligible for membership.

Our Chapter meets approximately five (5) Sunday's a year for a luncheon at the Chartiers Country Club (601 Baldwin Rd, Pittsburgh, PA 15205). In addition to enjoying a chef-prepared meal and hosting a guest speaker, these meetings provide for camaraderie as well as an opportunity to discuss and make decisions on the Chapter's paths to future. The December holiday party is the highlight of the year where, in addition to the meal, a volunteer gift exchange is held and entertainment is provided.

Current and past Chapter activities include supporting local college ROTC and high school JROTC programs through-out Western Pennsylvania; conducting Southwest Veteran Home "Bingos" for our regional veterans by providing gifts, prizes and fun; and providing holiday cards to Veterans living at VA Homes in the Southwest PA area. We also support other veteran support organizations (VSOs) with their efforts as opportunities are presented.

In the past, we have conducted several chapter social events such as a Gateway Clipper boat ride, a Pittsburgh Pirate baseball game, and a junior officer happy hour. We are in the process of planning many more.

There are many benefits and opportunities in membership. The greatest service opportunity is in support of our fellow veterans in the local community. MOAA National is our voice providing on-going legislative input advocating for the rights of all who have served. As a member of the MOAA Pittsburgh Chapter, you will be able to network and have fellowship with others who have served and continue to serve.

Jon P. Comis  
LTC (RET) USAR  
President  
MOAA Pittsburgh Chapter



MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA  
PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS  
OFFICE OF THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT  
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29 April 2024

MEMORANDUM FOR Pennsylvania Council of Chapter Presidents and Officers

SUBJECT: 2023 Levels of Excellence (LOE) Award Winners and 2023 Col. Marvin J. Harris Communications Award Winners

1. The purpose of this memorandum is to inform you of the MOAA National selectees for the 2023 LOE and Communications Awards winners.
2. As your Council President, I am pleased to offer you a hearty **SHOUT OUT** for your efforts and submissions. Your time, dedication, and activities have put you ahead of your peers. Further, your Chapter is involved, and you are not afraid to tell of your good works, community involvement, and the significant efforts on behalf of MOAA.
3. I accepted the awards on your behalf when I traveled to Washington, DC for Advocacy in Action earlier this month:
  - a. 5 Star LOE winners:
    - (1). Pennsylvania Council of Chapters.
    - (2). Keystone Capital Chapter.
    - (3). Lancaster Chapter.
    - (4). Pittsburgh Chapter.
  - b. 2023 Col. Marvin J. Harris Communications Award winners:
    - (1). Pennsylvania Council of Chapters – 4 Star Newsletter.
    - (2). Keystone Capital Chapter – 4 Star Newsletter.
    - (3). Lancaster Chapter – 4 Star Website.
    - (4). Pittsburgh Chapter – 5 Star Newsletter.
    - (5). Valley Forge Chapter – 4 Star Website.
    - (6). Willow Grove Chapter – 4 Star Newsletter and 4 Star Website.
4. I would like to present these awards to the Chapter Presidents at our next meeting on Saturday, 8 June 2024. Our meeting location is yet to be determined.
5. Again...CONGRATULATIONS for your magnificent efforts!

  
NICHOLAS M. TAYLOR  
Lieutenant Colonel, US Army (Ret.)  
President

**NEVER STOP SERVING**

A Memorandum from the Pennsylvania Council of Chapter's President, Nick Taylor, to all of the state chapters indicating all of the Pennsylvania Awards.



The new PACOC President, LTC Nick Taylor, presents former PACOC President, Robert Heister, with a PA State Achievement Award at our Chapter's April 2024 meeting.



MOAA National Senior Director of Council and Chapter Affairs Frank Michaels awards Bob the 2023 Level of Excellence Award (LOE) at the PACOC March 2024 meeting



MOAA National Senior Director of Council and Chapter Affairs Frank Michaels awards Bob and our Chapter (Joan Ballisario/Newsletter Editor) the MOAA Communication award at the PACOC October 2023 meeting.



Pittsburgh/PA 10 Chapter and PACOC President, Robert Heister, and Pittsburgh/PA10 Chapter Membership Chair, Jon Comis, proudly show the PA State Chapter's and our Chapter's Level of Excellence Awards (LOE) for 2021 at the October 2022 MOAA National Meeting in Kansas City, MO.

**Future 2024 Planned Luncheons at Chartiers Country Club**

**8 September 2024**

**Holiday Party 8 December 2024, the first Sunday after  
Thanksgiving Weekend**

**Additional Social and Community Service Activities will be  
added as they are planned. Ideas/suggestions welcome.  
Volunteers welcome.**

MOAA Pittsburgh | 130 LIBERTY BLVD | SEWICKLEY, PA 15143 US

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